

[Translation]

Irrigation Facilities in U.P.

3357. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the substantial area of cultivable land in Uttar Pradesh does not have any irrigation facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1993-94 (latest), out of 20.84 million hectares of total cultivable area in Uttar Pradesh, the net area under irrigation is 11.56 million hectares.

(e) To expedite the development of irrigation facilities in the State of U.P., Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 67.00 crores have been earmarked for 4 major irrigation projects namely Sarda Sahayak, Saraju Nahar, Upper Ganga including Madhya Canal and Rajghat and 2 medium irrigation projects namely Gunta Nala Bandha and Kharif Channel in Hindon Doah of U.P. during 1996-97 under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

Dredging of Silt from Canals in Ghatampur Area (U.P.)

3358. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the funds allocated for the dredging of silt from canals under the department of irrigation in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1996-97;
- (b) the amount allocated for dredging of silt from canals in Ghatampur area;
- (c) whether fake payments are being made for the removal of silt from canals with the connivance of officers and contractors of the Department of Irrigation;
- (d) whether any inquiry has been conducted by any agency in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Winding up of Disciplines by SAI

3359. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Sports Authority of India has taken decision to close down the discipline of Gymnastics, Badminton, Table Tennis and Fencing from all the schemes;
- (b) if so, whether the SAI has asked the parents of the students to bear the expenses of education, boarding/lodging etc. which were earlier paid to them; and
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) In order to give more emphasis to priority disciplines non-priority disciplines like Gymnastic, Badminton, Table Tennis and Fencing are planned to be taken out from the SAI schemes.

(b) and (c) Regional Directors of Sports Authority of India have been asked to submit their recommendations with regard to closing down of disciplines for the consideration of the Empowered Committee. However, it has come to the notice of Sports Authority of India that one of the Regional Directors has issued instructions at his own level asking the parents of the children under the schemes to bear the expenses of education, boarding/lodging etc. These instructions are being withdrawn.

Afghanistan Problem

3360. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government are aware of the growing interference of Pakistan and some other countries in the internal affairs of Afghanistan;
- (b) if so, whether the Government think that Pakistan's policy to destabilise Afghanistan endangers the security in the South Asia;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such an eventuality and whether any negotiations with Russia, Iran and other countries have taken place by the Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Foreign interference in Afghanistan is not conducive to the peace and stability of the region including South Asia.

(c) and (d) Government continue to follow developments in Afghanistan closely and have exchanged views with concerned countries on this issue, including Russia and Iran. India has also participated in the Tehran Conference on Afghanistan called by Iran during October, 1996 and has participated in UN sponsored meetings in New York during November, 1996 and at Ashgabat during January, 1997. During these meetings we have reiterated our support for the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, called for peaceful negotiations among Afghan parties and emphasised the need for cessation of foreign interference for resolution of the conflict.

[Translation]

Survey of Halon Project

3361. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether survey to Halon Project (Narmada Kachhar) in Mandla District in Madhya Pradesh was started in 1986;
- (b) whether this project has been approved;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which work on the said project is likely to be started; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) No information is kept at the Centre regarding surveys carried out by the States.

[English]

Brahmaputra Waterway

3362. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Assam to harness the river Brahmaputra as a waterway;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Transport Ministers of North Eastern States submitted a Memorandum to the Government for development of transport sector in North Eastern region, which include setting up of terminals, night navigation facilities, maintenance of fairway etc. for development of Brahmaputra as a waterway.

(c) Dhubri to Sadiya stretch of 891 kms. of river Brahmaputra was declared as NW-2 in September, 1988. For development and maintenance of the fairway,

conservancy works like bandalling, channel marking are being taken up on year to year basis. Floating terminals exists at Dhubri and Pandu. A Scheme sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 60.20 lakhs for provision of additional floating terminals at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Tezpur, Neamati and Dibrugarh is under implementation. A scheme for providing night navigational facilities between Dhubri and Pandu is also under process. A fairway with 2 mtr. LAD is being maintained from Dhubri to Dibrugarh during the current year. River Conservancy work is proposed to be extended upto Saikhowa during 1997-98.

During 9th Five Year Plan, construction of additional permanent terminals at various locations such as Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Tezpur, Neamati with mechanical loading/unloading facilities and providing night navigation facilities for the stretch from Dhubri to Dibrugarh are proposed to be taken up.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Education Officers in KVS

3363. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in the case of 'Ajay Hasia' in 1981 gave a direction to the Government to keep a ratio between maximum marks prescribed for written examination and the interview under the direct recruitment procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this direction is being adhered to in the direct recruitment of Education officers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan; and

(d) if no, the justification of violation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) and (d) For filling posts of Education Officers by direct recruitment, selection is made on the basis of performance in written test as well as interview. Shortlisting of candidates is done on the basis of written test and the final list is prepared on the basis of the combined merit of written test and interview.

Statement

Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of 'Ajay Hasia' etc. Vs Khalid Mujib Sehravardi and others etc. adjudicated upon whether an institution registered under the Societies Registration Act is an authority under Article 12 of the Constitution, validity of viva voce examination as permissible test for selection of